



Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed 2023 History, Progress and Challenges

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Chesapeake Bay Commission

Legislative Briefings
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Chesapeake Bay Commission

Tri-State Legislative Commission

- MD, VA, PA
 - 7 Members from each State
 - 2 Senators, 3 Delegates
-
- ❖ Translate Science Into Coordinated Federal & State Policy
 - ❖ Coordinate Policy Interests w/Congress
 - ❖ Serve as Legislative Arm of Bay Program



**Established by state law
in 1980s**

Chesapeake Bay

Largest Estuary in the United States

The Waters of 6 States Drain into the Chesapeake

- 64,000 square miles
- 41 million acres
- 150 Major Rivers and Streams
- 1,850 local governments
- 18.2 million people
- 87,000 farms



It's An Economic Engine



It's Our Culture



The Bay is Shallow

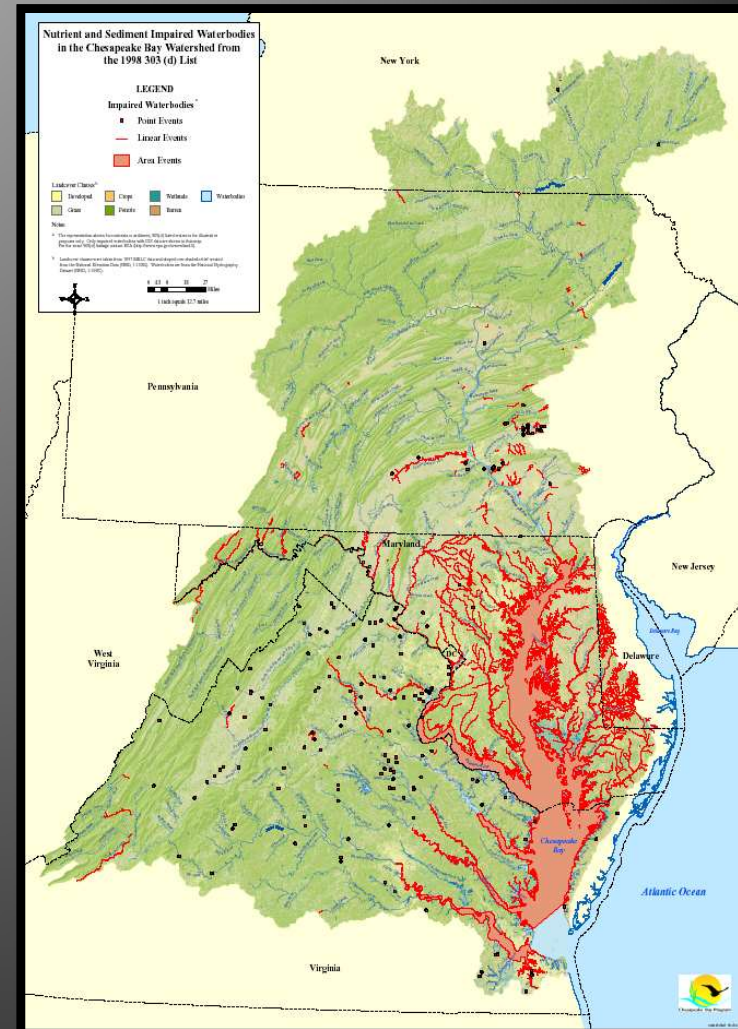


The Chesapeake Bay is Impaired



←1588

2010→



Too much Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Sediment

Bay Restoration Goal

Dissolved Oxygen

Milligrams of Oxygen
per liter of water:

10

7.5

5.0

2.5

Dead
Zone

0

OYSTERS:
1.0 milligrams per liter



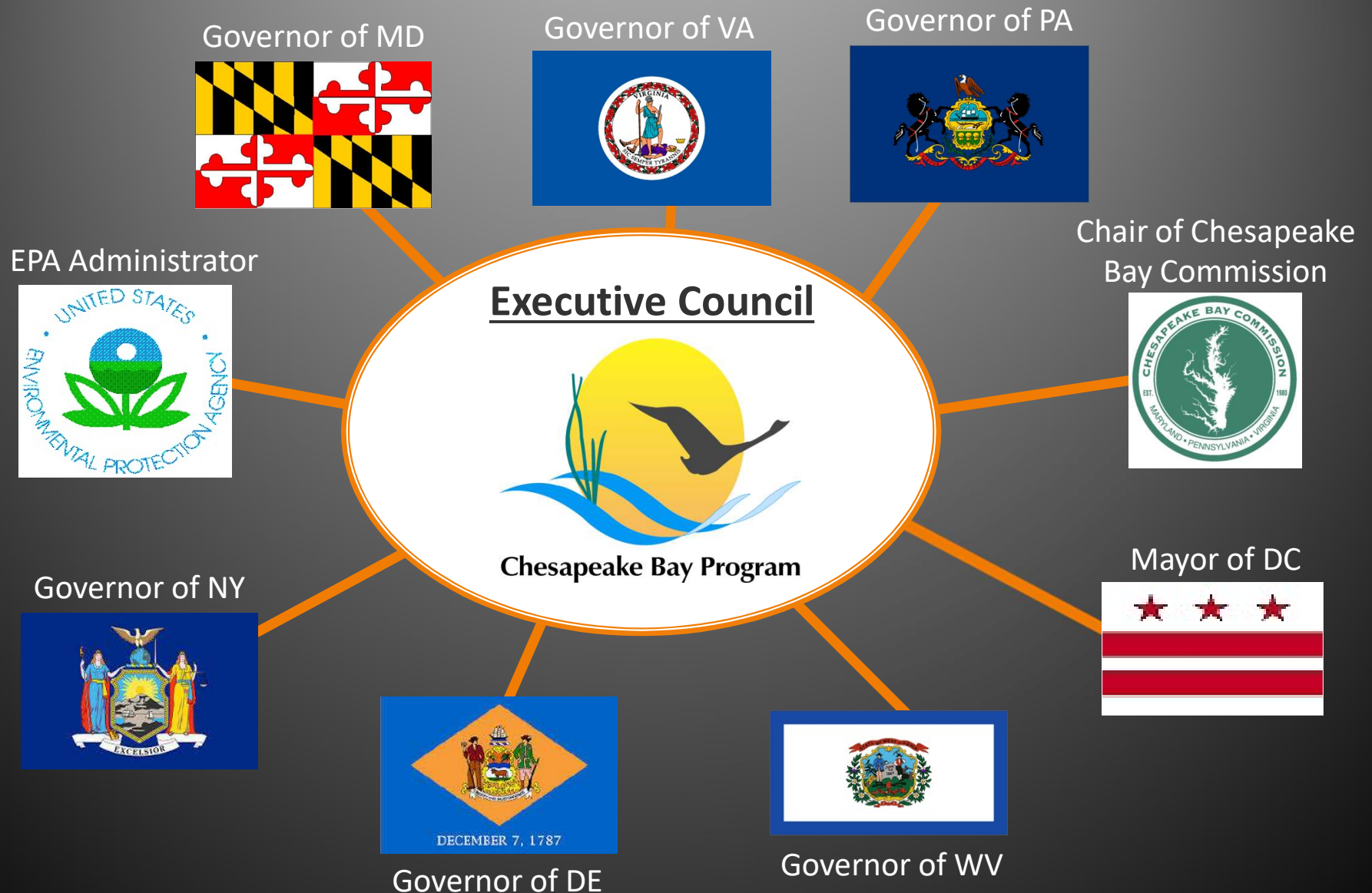
Pollution Sources Are Diverse



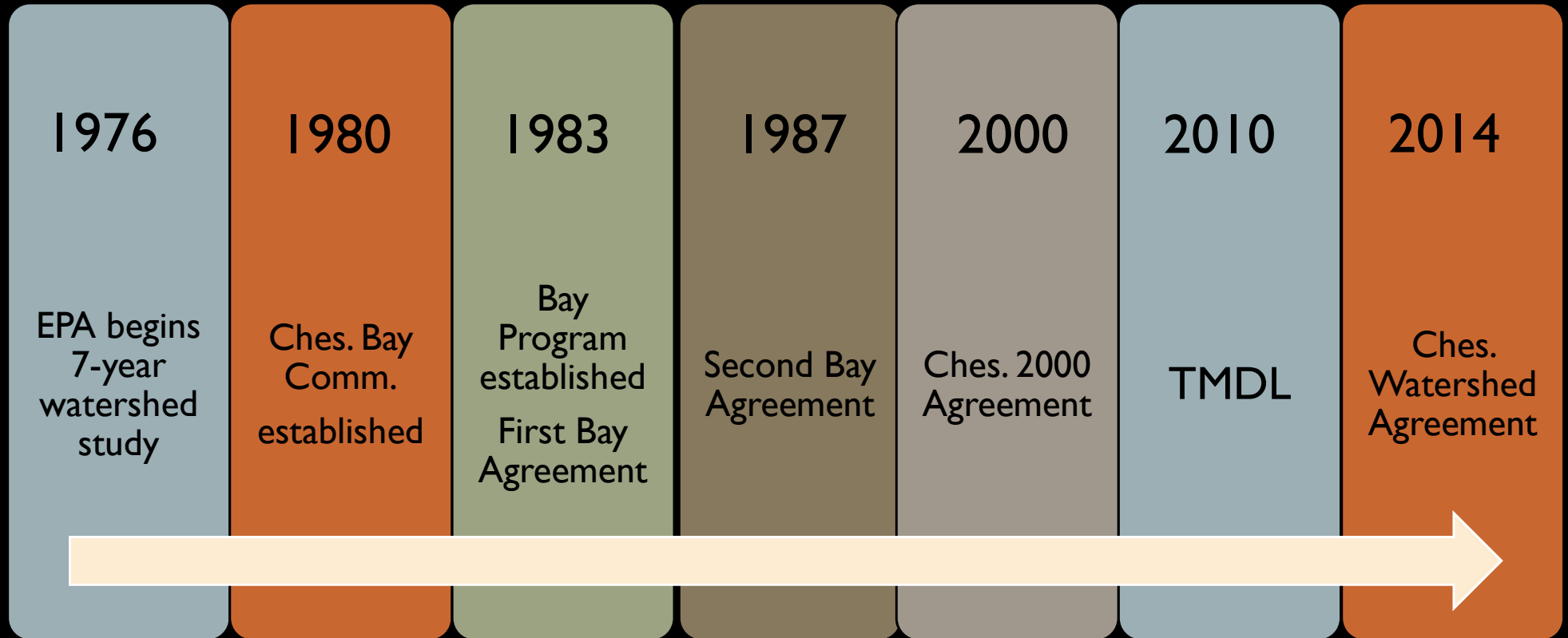
Major
Sources



The Chesapeake Bay Program



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 40+ YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP



Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) An Enforceable “Pollution Diet”

TIMELINE

2010: Established

2017: 60% Practices in Place

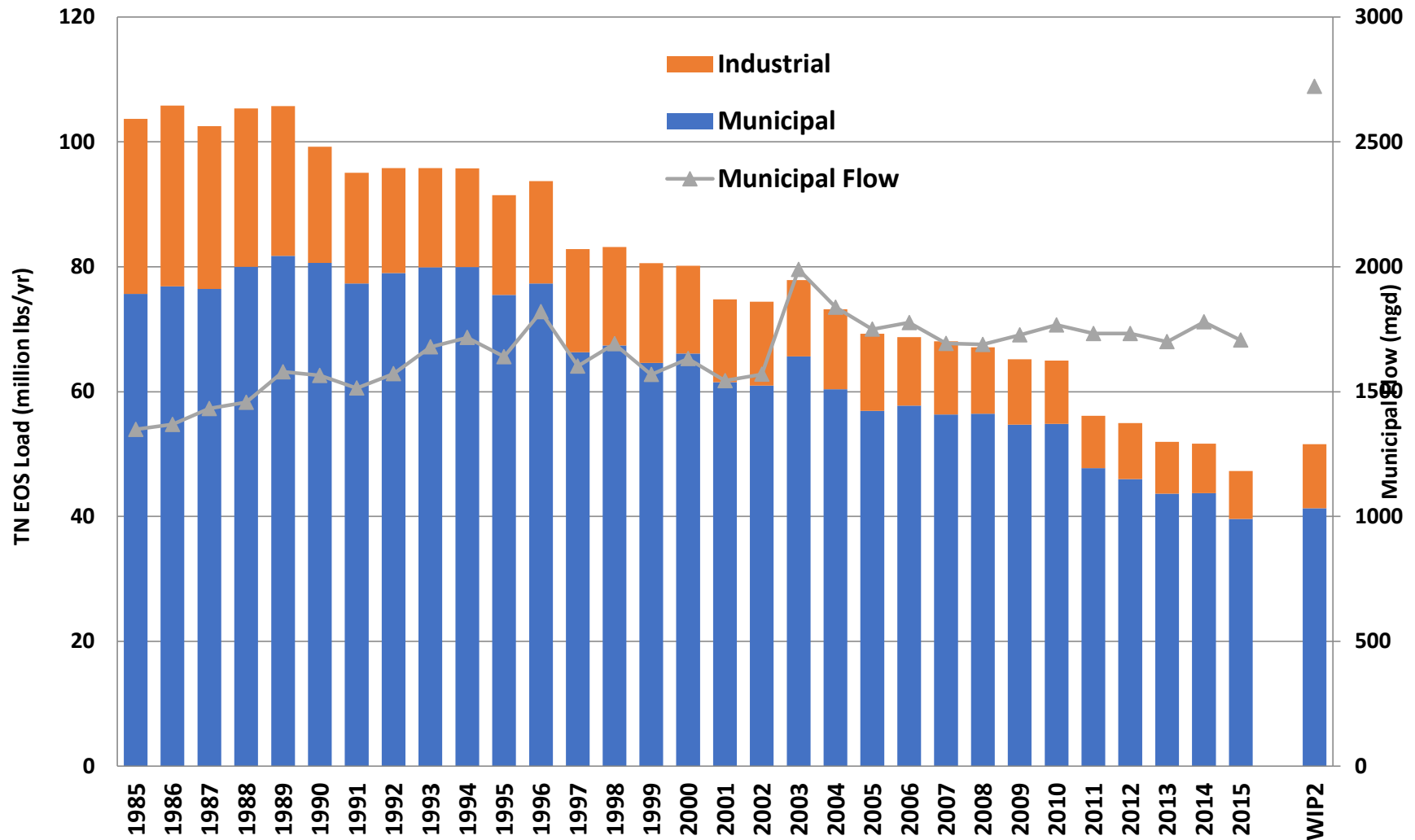
2019: Phase III WIPs

2025: 100% Practices in Place

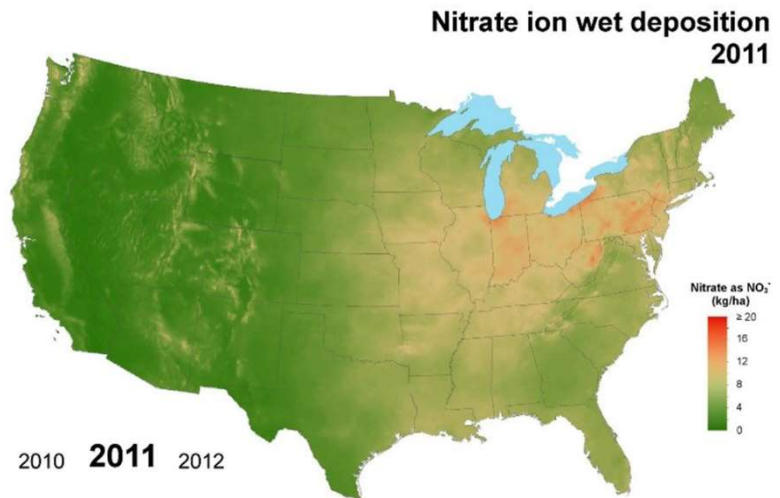
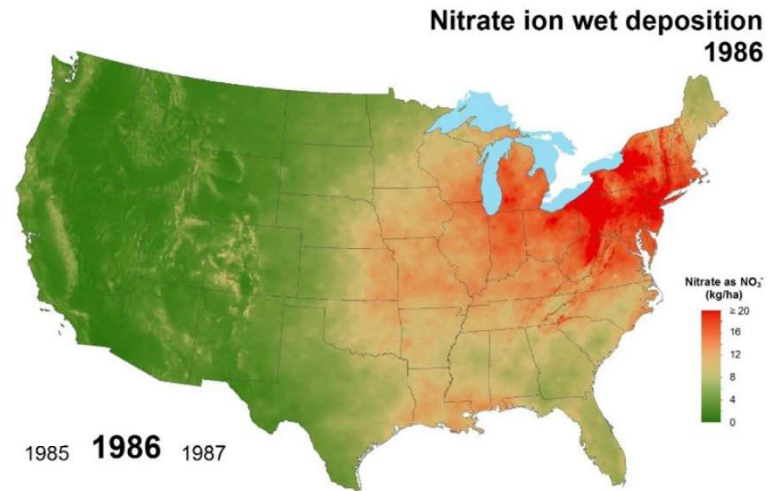
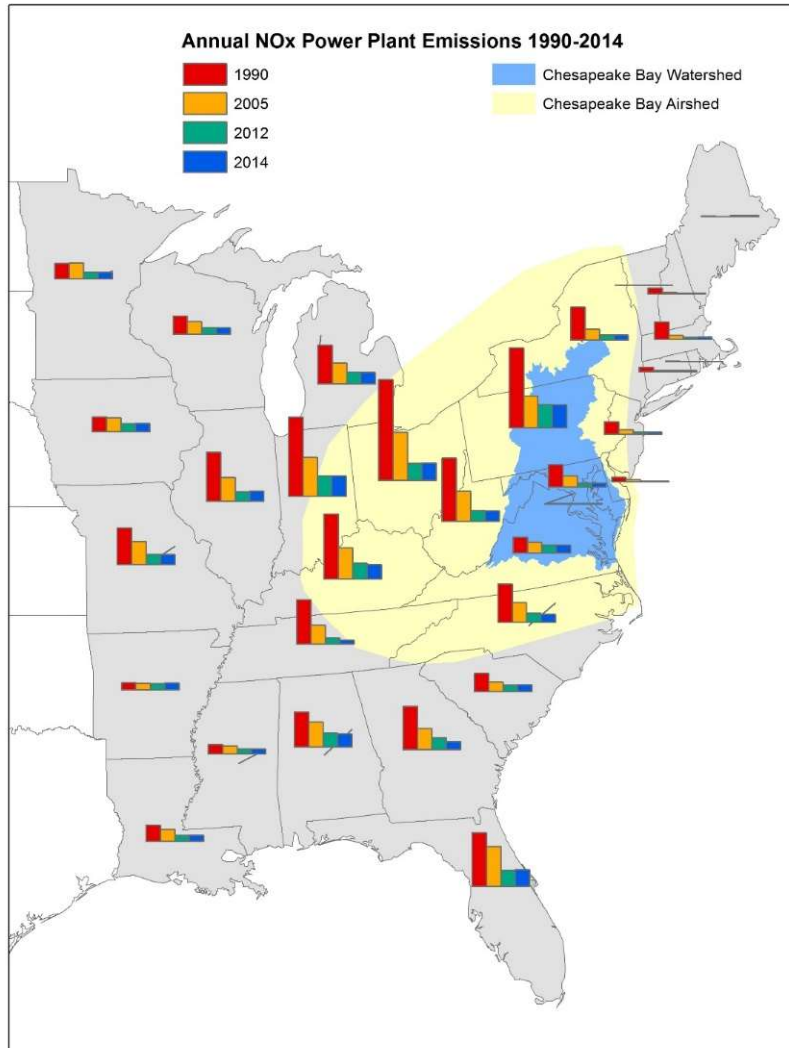


A **TMDL** calculates the maximum amount of a specific pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Municipal and Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facilities Achieved their 2025 Goal a Decade Early!



Clean Act Air Implementation by the States has Resulted in a 35 Million Pound Reduction of Nitrogen Loads to Chesapeake Bay from 1985 to 2015



Reducing Pollution: 1985-2021

Nitrogen



Phosphorus










Sediment

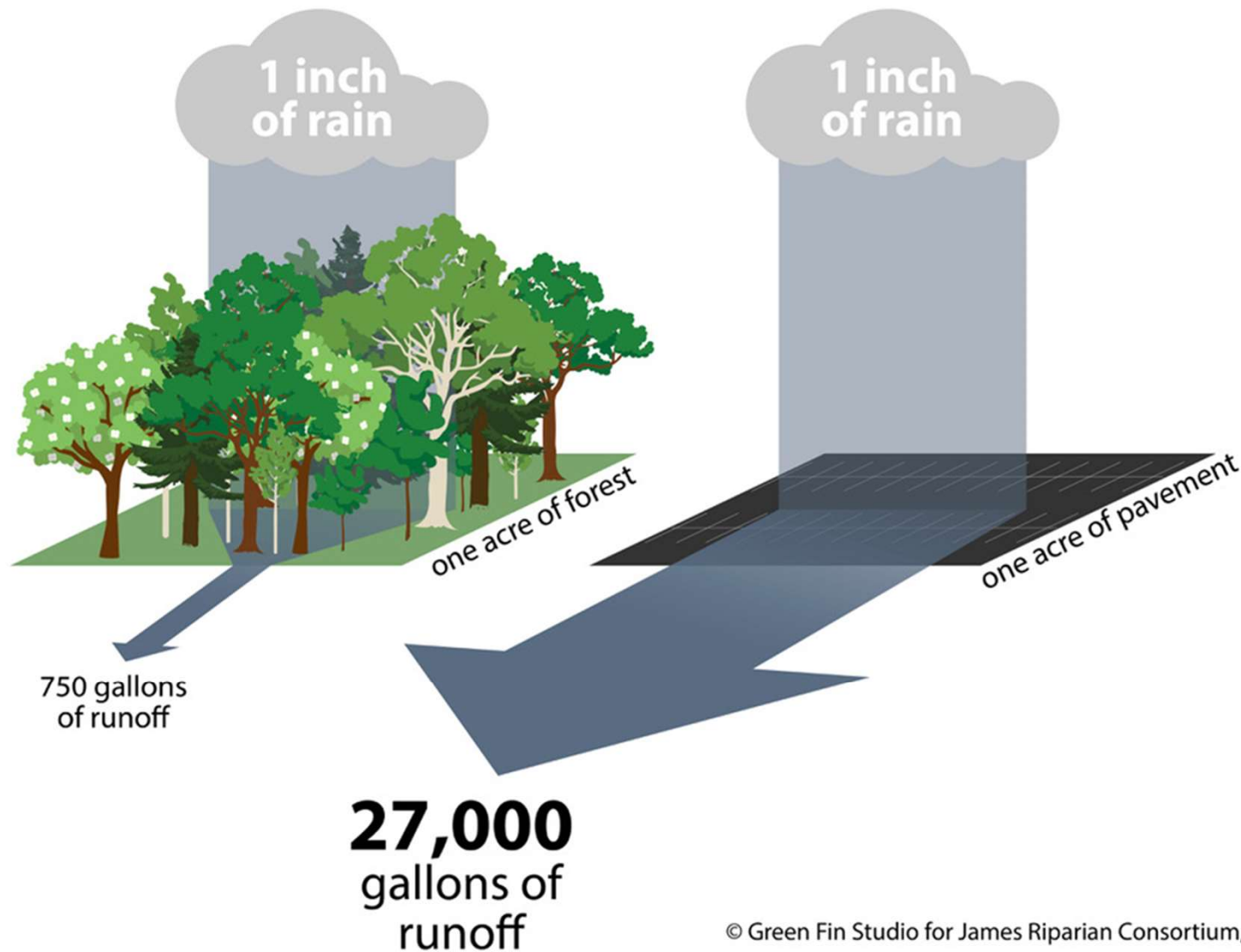


Chesapeake Bay Water Quality is Improving
Headed in the Right Direction –
But Not as Fast as Planned or Desired

Challenges Remaining: Nitrogen Reductions

	Progress to Date	Reductions by 2025
Agriculture:		
Wastewater:		
Urban Stormwater:		
Septics:		

The Need for Forest Conservation



State Legislation (1983-2022)



Virginia

- Water Facilities Revolving Fund ('86)
- C. Bay Preservation Act ('88)
- Ag. Equipment Tax Credit ('90)
- Nutrient Mgmt Certification ('94)
- Ag. Stewardship ('96)
- Water Quality Imp. Act ('97)
- Land Preservation Tax Credit ('00)
- Stormwater Program Consolidation ('05 & '13)
- Nut. Credit Exchange ('05)
- Point Source Upgrades ('05)
- Phosphate Det. Ban ('08)
- Urban Lawn Fertilizer ('12)
- Stormwater Partnerships ('16)

Pennsylvania

- MPC Omnibus Amdts. ('00)
- Phosphate Detergent Ban
- Farmland Preservation
- Ag. Nutrient Management
- Growing Greener ('02)
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Program ('04)
- Water & Wastewater Treatment Bond ('04)
- Manure Hauler & Broker Certification ('04)
- Nutrient Mgmt. Update ('04)
- Growing Greener II ('05)
- REAP (Ag. Trans. Tax Credit) ('07)
- Phosphate Detergent Ban (08)
- H₂O PA ('08)
- Stormwater Authorities ('14)
- Riparian Buffers ('16)

Maryland

- Critical Areas ('84)
- Sediment & Erosion ('80)
- Stormwater Control ('82-'86)
- Ag. Nutrient Mgmt ('88)
- Forest Conservation ('91)
- Green Print ('01)
- Smart Growth ('97)
- Rural Legacy ('97)
- Bay Restoration Fund('04,'12)
- P Detergent Ban ('06,'11)
- Chesapeake Trust Fund ('07)
- Stormwater Manag. ('07)
- Forest Preservation Act ('08)
- Living Shorelines ('08)
- Septic Tanks ('09, '12)
- Lawn Fertilizer ('11, '18)
- Stormwater Utilities ('12)
- Oyster Assessment ('16)

CBC Focus

- Ag Technical Assistance and Cost-Share
- Forest and Land Conservation
- Federal Funds
- Dedicated State Funds
- Executive Council Directives
 - Climate
 - DEIJ
- Planning for Post-2025



QUESTIONS?



Chesapeake Bay
Commission

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